

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CRISP COUNTY
FEBRUARY 12, 2002**

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chairman J. R. Dowdy, Jr. called the meeting to order. Commissioners James D. Harris, Wallace Mathis, A. James Nance, Joyce C. Pheil, County Attorney Guy D. Pfeiffer and secretary Linda Finch in attendance. Mr. Dowdy gave the invocation.

MINUTES APPROVED

Motion by Mr. Mathis, seconded by Mr. Harris and motion carried, approving minutes of January 8, 2002 with the correction of Ed Sell's name, and the minutes of January 16, 2002.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT - OVERLOOK POINT, L.P.

Jerry and Anna Braden met with Commissioners to ask for Resolution Of Support for their company, Overlook Pointe, L.P. Mr. Braden advised that they are proposing to build approximately 56 apartment units through the Department of Community Affairs, and the DCA has limited funds and there is a lot of competition obtaining these funds. He stated that the DCA rates the competition on a point system and to received points, they need a Resolution Of Support from the local Governing Authority, and they would like Commissioners to help them with this. He also stated that they would like to proceed within the next sixty days to develop this plan and buy a building permit, as you get four points to have the building permit in place, and he would like Commissioners consideration that if they buy this permit and do not get funded, that the Commissioners reimburse them the permit fees less any administration fees. Mr. Mathis had concerns about him having to buy building permits each from the City and County, as he will be annexed into the City to get the utilities, and Mr. Braden was not concerned about this. Mr. Pfeiffer stated that he has looked over the Resolution and it looks fine, and by giving them the Resolution of Support does not obligate the county to anything.

Motion by Mr. Mathis, seconded by Mr. Harris and motion carried, authorizing Chairman Dowdy to sign Resolution of Support of Overlook Pointe, L. P. with the stipulation that the building permit be refunded if they are not approved.

WETLANDS PERMIT SIGNED

Hal Newberry, engineer for the Landfill, advised Commissioners that the EPD approved the Landfill expansion on September 5, 2001, one of the conditions of the permit was some of the wetlands that was impacted by expansion would have to be litigated, and the Core of Engineer issued a draft permit on December 10, 2001 with instruction to review it, if everything was in order, sign it and return it to them for them to issue a final Wetlands Permit. He stated that they had the environmental people who applied for the permit on the Commissioners behalf to review the draft,

and they stated that everything looks in order, and they recommend that the permit be signed and sent back to the Core of Engineers. Mr. Newberry advised that he recommends the Commissioners do this also, as this does not require Commissioners to do anything right now but it allows them do it when they are ready to build the cells at the Landfill. He also advised that the Landfill has about two years of life left at the current tonnage, and it will take about a year to build the next two cells, they will be a little bit more involved as you have to build a lift station, sediment ponds, wetlands mitigation has to be done along with the groundwater monitoring wells has to be constructed. He stated that they don't have to start right now, but he doesn't advised to wait too long to get started, also, they are recommending going with cells 8 & 9 as one cell would not give a lot of air space and economically it would make better sense to do both cells, and this will give you about 300,000 tons of waste, which would add about six years of life to the Landfill. Mrs. Pheil stated that she would like to put this off until the last possible moment as it involves borrowing money and putting the county further in debt. Mr. Dowdy stated that we are not going into debt until we build the cells, if we go ahead and get everything set up then we can award the contract whenever we want to. Mr. Mathis ask what kind of cost will be involved for these cells, and Mr. Newberry replied that the construction cost would run about \$1.2 million.

Motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Nance and motion carried, agreeing to sign the Wetlands Permit and get back to the Core of Engineers.

Motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Nance and motion carried with Mrs. Pheil opposing, authorizing Mr. Newberry and his firm to proceed with getting wetlands mitigation taken care of and getting the construction plans ready to take bids and award a contract in the third quarter of 2002.

NEWTOWN SEWER PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Newberry reported that the construction on the Newtown Sewer Project is working very well, they are pleased with the contractor, and we should be winding up the Phase I in about thirty days, the design is nearing completion on Phase II and we should be ready to take bids very soon on this.

YOUTH BASEBALL CONTRACT

Duane Slade, Monica Simmons and Freda Brewer came to discuss the Youth Baseball Contract. Mr. Pfeiffer stated that he has talked with the Youth Baseball Association, and they have requested to borrow from the Recreation Department two pitching machines and netting for the baseball fields. He stated that he has drafted a proposed Resolution for Youth Baseball Contract, and under the Georgia Constitution it authorized the county to spend monies to provide recreational facilities, programs, and services. He stated that the Contract is an annual Agreement, beginning March 2, 2002 and end December 31, 2002, thereafter the Agreement shall renew for one calendar year unless either party notifies the other that the Agreement shall not be renewed, it authorizes the Recreation Department to purchase this equipment and the Youth Baseball Association to borrow it. Mrs. Simmons stated that they have about three hundred kids in the program, and they definitely need this equipment, and they thanked Commissioners for their support.

Motion by Mr. Mathis, seconded by Mr. Nance and motion carried, approving Contract For Services-Youth Baseball, and giving Chairman Dowdy the authority to sign the Contract.

CRISP AREA GUN CLUB

Donnie Pope and Gary Mitchel came before Commissioners to request use of land adjacent to the airport for the Crisp Area Gun Club. Mr. Pope showed on a map the property the county owns that they would like to use next to where they already use for the club, and this property would be used for archery, it doesn't take much room and they have insurance to cover any liability. Mr. Mathis asked what they could do to insure that no arrows will be shot toward the runway, and Mr. Pope stated that all targets will be facing away from the airport runway. Mr. Mitchell stated that they would sign any kind of paperwork Commissioners needed or wanted to have prepared to hold the County harmless. Chairman Dowdy stated that the County would have to go to FAA to get their permission for use of this property.

Motion by Mr. Mathis, seconded by Mrs. Pheil and motion carried, authorizing Mr. Pfeiffer to write letter for Chairman Dowdy's signature to the FAA to seek their approval for the use of this property for the Gun Club, and they also support the Gun Club in their efforts.

LAWANDA HAYSLIP'S COMMENTS

Lawanda Hayslip requested that the Commissioners change their meeting time to Tuesday night's, and Chairman Dowdy stated that would be something the Commission would have to decide. She ask why Mr. McKnight was let go and they feel they have been left in the dark and no one running the County, and Chairman Dowdy stated that he thought the County was running pretty good, and he would let Mr. Pfeiffer address that question. Mr. Pfeiffer stated that the Administrator serves at the pleasure of the Board of Commissioners, they didn't rehire him and they don't have to have a reason. Ms. Hayslip ask what was going to be the qualifications of the next Administrator, and Chairman Dowdy stated they haven't discussed that. Mrs. Pheil stated that she had sent Mr. Pfeiffer a memo asking him who was officially running our county, and she hasn't gotten a reply and she would like to hear the official answer to that question, and Mr. Pfeiffer stated that the same body that has always run the County is still running the County, The Board of Commissioners, but actually she asked who was doing the job of the County Administrator, and the County Administrator had been given certain administrative duties relative to the job, most of those are being done by the Department Heads, some of them are with the Assistant County Clerk, which is the system we had before, and personnel matters, the Board has to take up. Mr. Mathis stated that he has heard a lot about changing the meeting to nighttime, especially when we have zoning issues and they have to make a special effort to get off work to come, and he doesn't have a problem of making a motion to change the meeting to nights, and Mrs. Pheil seconded this motion because she thinks people would like to participate in our meetings but can't because we have them during the day. Chairman Dowdy stated that this is not the first time this has come up, all we are doing now is discussing it, and then if we want to change it at a later date. Commissioners all agreed to discuss changing the Commissioners meeting time to nights.

SPLOST REQUEST - SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sheriff Haralson asked if he would be allowed to purchase his cars for the next fiscal year up to an amount of \$100,000.00 out of his SPLOST funds cars.

Motion by Mr. Mathis, seconded by Mrs. Pheil and motion carried, allowing Sheriff to purchase cars under the SPLOST funds up to \$100,000.00.

SPLOST REQUEST - RAILS AT COURTHOUSE

Lonny Coleman, Maintenance Supervisor, reported that the rails on the northwest corner of the Courthouse are very rusty and re about to fall. He has received a quote to replace 8 rails and add rails to the 13th Avenue entrance where Judge Forrester comes in by the Magistrate Court. The rails will be made of anodized steel. The quote was itemized as follows: \$2850 for the NW corner, \$620 for the SW corner, and \$350 for the 13th Avenue entrance for a total of \$3820. Mr. Mathis asked if there was a company in Crisp County who made the rails and Mr. Coleman stated that the rails are made of steel and then have to be sent to Atlanta to have the anodized coating put on them.

Motion made by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Nance and motion carried allowing Mr. Coleman to purchase and install the three sets of rails at the price shown on the quote provided.

SPLOST REQUEST – HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Mr. Coleman reported that he has received two bids to pain the inside of the Health Department, as this needs to be done before the tile is put down. He recommended the lowest bid and stated that this is from the person who painted the Health Department the last time it was done.

Motion made by Mr. Mathis, seconded by Mr. Harris and motion carried to accept the low bid of \$9000.

SPLOST REQUEST – PUBLIC WORKS

Carl Gamble, Director of Public Works, requested three 800 megahertz handheld radios and chargers as they have moved some of the people from the Landfill to Public Works and they need a way to communicate within his department. The radios cost approximately \$1800 each. Chairman Dowdy stated that he had also learned that Ms. Pheil had told Chief Lunsford to get her a radio. Ms Pheil stated that she was asked by Chief Lunsford to get a radio and there were two reasons she wanted a radio, 1) She was asked by Chief Lunsford, as a member of the Public Safety Board, to have a radio, and 2) She was told by a County employee that he was being spoken to in an abusive manner over the radio and she felt she should hear this herself before she took any action on it and all she saw a radio as is a tool to do her job and that his was something that her constituents sent her here to do and she needed a radio to do her job better. She stated that she didn't think they sent her here to ask any of her fellow Commissioners how to do her job and she was very disappointed to see that this matter was coming for a vote by the Board as to whether or not she could have a radio. She also stated that Farrow Baker had a radio and Chairman Dowdy didn't know that Farrow had it. Mr. Dowdy stated that the only objection he has is that he doesn't think on Commissioner deserves a radio more than another Commissioner does and Mr. Nance is on the Public Safety Committee also and some of the other Commissioners may also want one. Mr. Dowdy went on to state that he does

not want a radio but if the other Commissioners do then he feels that they are just as much entitled to an \$1800 radio as one Commissioner is. Mr. Mathis stated that he didn't have a problem with Ms. Pheil having a radio and that he would take one just in case he needed to get in touch with Mr. Gamble.

Motion made by Mr. Mathis, seconded by Mr. Harris and motion carried approving the purchase of four radios out of Public Works SLOST funds.

SPLOST REQUEST – CITY OF ARABI

Chairman Dowdy reported that the City of Arabi has requested a service truck in the amount of \$26,008.40 to come out of their SPLOST funds.

Motion made by Mr. Mathis, seconded by Mr. Harris and motion carried approving \$26,008.40 from Southland Ford for a service truck to come out of City of Arabi Funds.

SPLOST REQUEST – RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Cary Cason, Recreation Department Director reported that this is a continuation of the Phase II of their Recreation Department Site and this is to repair some of the blemishes on the track and put a seal coat on the track at a cost of \$2680 and then paint and eight lane track with all the necessary markings for a track and field events will cost \$4500 making a total cost of \$7,180.00 out of their SPLOST funds.

Motion made by Mr. Mathis, seconded by Mr. Harris and motion carried approving the request for finishing the 400 meter track at the total cost of \$7,180 to come out of Recreation Department SPLOST funds.

GOLF COURSE, PARKS MAINTENANCE, AND FLOOR MAINTENANCE UNDER RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Chairman Dowdy reported that since we do not have an Administrator that the Golf Course, Parks Maintenance, and Floor Maintenance should be put back under the direction of Cary Cason, Recreation Department Director. Mr. Dowdy stated that these departments were under his leadership before and that it seems to him that if Mr. Cason is going to be the Recreation Department Director then we should let him handle such things until such time when we need to change it. Mr. Cason stated that all of these departments fall under his budget and if he is going to be responsible for the money they spend then he thinks they need to be his responsibility.

Motion made by Mr. Mathis, seconded by Mr. Harris and motion carried to put the Golf Course, Parks Maintenance, and Floor / Building Maintenance back under the Recreation Department Director until such time that it is necessary to change.

APPLICATIONS FOR SECRETARY / RECEPTIONIST AT RECREATION DEPT.

Mr. Cason reported that he has received seventy-six applications for the secretary / receptionist position that he has available. Mr. Pfeiffer reported that under the personnel policy the County

Administrator is the hiring authority and that he suggests that rather than the Commissioners going through the seventy-six applications that Mr. Cason go through these applications and the interview process and then make a suggestion to the Commissioners as to whom he recommends and then the Commissioners will make a final decision as to whom to hire. Mr. Mathis stated that he didn't have a problem with Mr. Cason hiring whomever he wants because he will be the one that will have to work with her and be responsible for her.

Motion made by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Nance and motion carried allowing Mr. Cason to go through the applications, screen them down and come back to the Board with about three names that he recommends.

5TH STREET LIGHTING

Mr. Cason reported that at night the entrance to the Recreation Department is not lit up and it is dark out there and basically all of the 5th Street Extension is dark and he has talked with Carl Gamble about getting some lights out there. Mr. Pfeiffer stated that we need to talk with the City of Cordele since that is a City street.

By common consent, Commissioners authorized Mr. Cason to talk with the Power Commissioner and let them look into this and give us a recommendation and also talk with the City of Cordele and see if they will help with the lighting in this area.

GIRL SCOUT BUILDING

Mr. Pfeiffer stated that the Girl Scout Building is actually owned by the club that was given permission to build this building on Turner Park property, and that the building remains the property of that organization and they maintain that building. He advised that Turner Park is actually owned by the City and leased to the County. It is provided in the agreement that if the City wants the building moved to some other location then the City has to provide a location for the building to be moved to as long as the owners maintain the building but that it is not a City or County building. He also stated that the County can not deny then the right to do any work. By common consent, Commissioners authorized Mr. Pfeiffer to write a letter to the Girl Scouts advising them of this.

REALLOCATION OF SPLOST FUNDS

Mr. Pfeiffer stated that he, Ms. Pheil, Mr. Nance, and Mr. Harris have gone through the various departments involving the potential of using SPLOST funds for a new building to house the Georgia State Patrol to be built across from the Sheriff's Department and the last step was for him to talk to Mr. Drennan at the Cordele-Crisp IDC regarding the use of \$145,000 in Industrial Development Funds for this project. He stated that in talking with Mr. Drennan some other ideas have been brought up and that He asked Mr. Drennan to come and share his ideas with the Board.

Mr. Drennan stated that the State Patrol is considered an existing industry and that he doesn't think that this is something that we want to lose. He stated that the County could apply for a Rural Business Enterprise Grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and that the application would be for two grants at \$99,999.00 each. One could be used for the renovation of the Drivers License

Bureau and the other could be used to help build the tower off of Hwy 300. He stated that it would probably take about 6 months to get the grant approved and that the IDC would be willing to apply for the grant on the Commissioners behalf. Mr. Pfeiffer stated that he and two of the Commissioners have already met with the Sheriff's Dept., E-911, Building Maintenance, Public Works, EMS, the Recreation Dept., and the IDC and that each department has come up with specific funds that they are not going to have to spend during the term of the current SPLOST that will end at the end of 2005. They have been able to come up with a total of \$873,000 that would be available for the project and with the two "RBEG's", that should put us at a total of over \$1 million, which should be sufficient. Ms. Pheil stated that one thing that did come out at the meetings is that we need to have our Finance Director start working on a SPLOST budget and planning for this money to be available when we need it. Chairman Dowdy said that Ms. Hendley knows how much is coming in and she knows what we have to spend so she can guide us and if there is no problem in reallocating these funds then we should be able to accommodate these people and her appreciates all the departments that are willing to help along with the IDC.

PAVING LIST TO GO TO DOT

Chairman Dowdy reported that the Commissioners meet with the DOT on Monday at 2:00 p.m. and there is a list in the Commissioners folders of the 2002 Paving Requests. Mr. Gamble reported that this list is in conjunction with the other list that was sent to the DOT in January. Chairman Dowdy went over the list that includes Floyd and Harper Roads that they will be asking for next Monday. Also on that list are Hanna, Culpepper, and Eddie Roads which total 3.9 mile that they will be asking for if the Commissioners approve. There was no objection to the road list. Mr. Harris stated that he has had a lot of comments about he sidewalks, curbs, and gutters along Joe Wright Drive to Newtown. Mr. Gamble advised that we probably should wait until the sewer system is complete to do this.

ADMINISTRATOR'S VEHICLE

By common consent the Commissioners agreed to park the Administrator's new pickup truck at Public Works until we have a new Administrator.